

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

**Conestoga Wagons** replaced horse pack trains, and were the long-distance freight carriers before the railroads were completed.

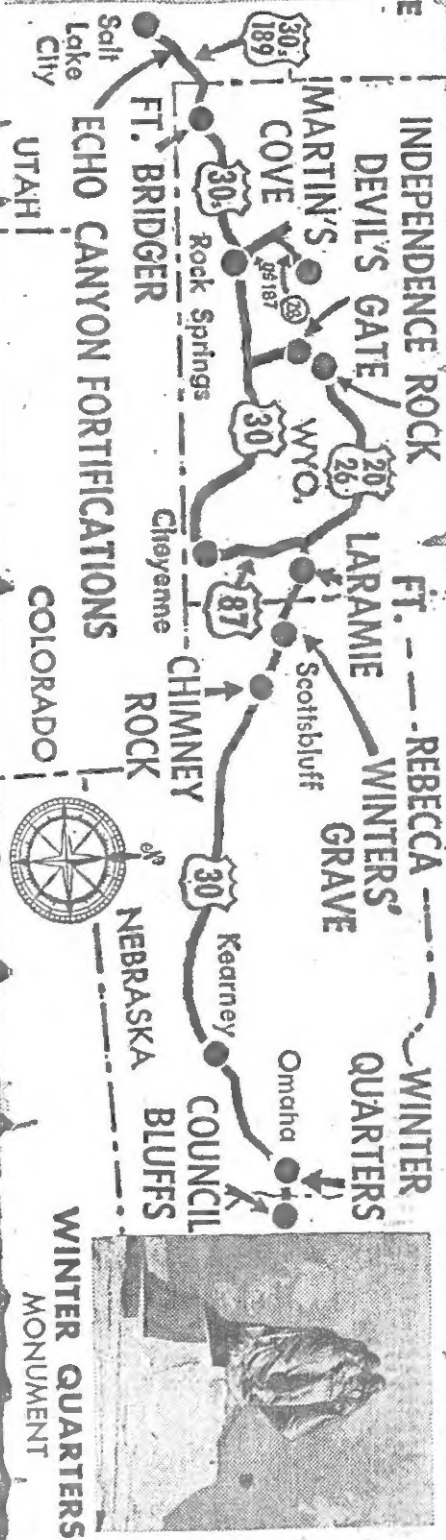
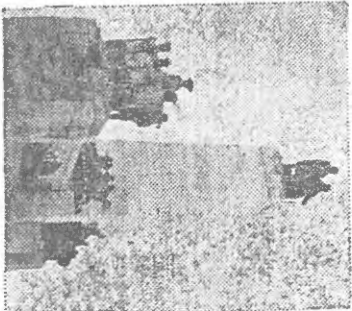
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**CONESTOGA WAGON** was a sturdy, colorful covered wagon used by American pioneers. It was named for the Pennsylvania town where it was first built in the middle 1700's. Conestogas carried most of the freight and people that moved west over the Alleghenies from the time of the Revolutionary War until about 1850. These wagons were sometimes called the *camels of the prairie*.

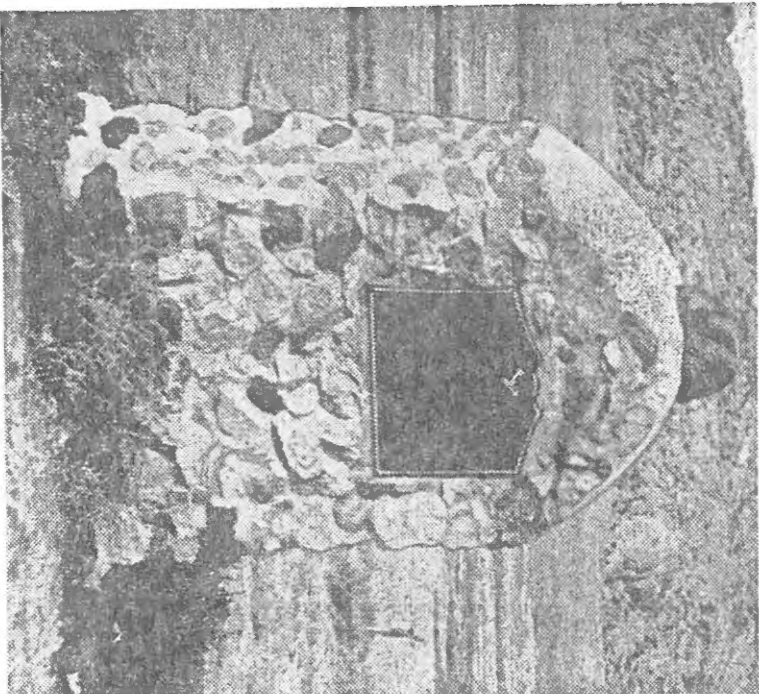
Both ends of the wagon were built higher than the middle. The white canvas roof was high and rounded. Wheels with broad tires prevented bogging down in mud. These could be removed and the wagon could be used as a boat. Conestoga wagons were drawn by teams of from four to six horses.

JOHN J. FLORENTY  
See also PENNSYLVANIA DRIVING WESTERN FRONTIER  
Lure (color picture).

THIS IS THE PLACE  
MONUMENT



# on the Pioneer Trail

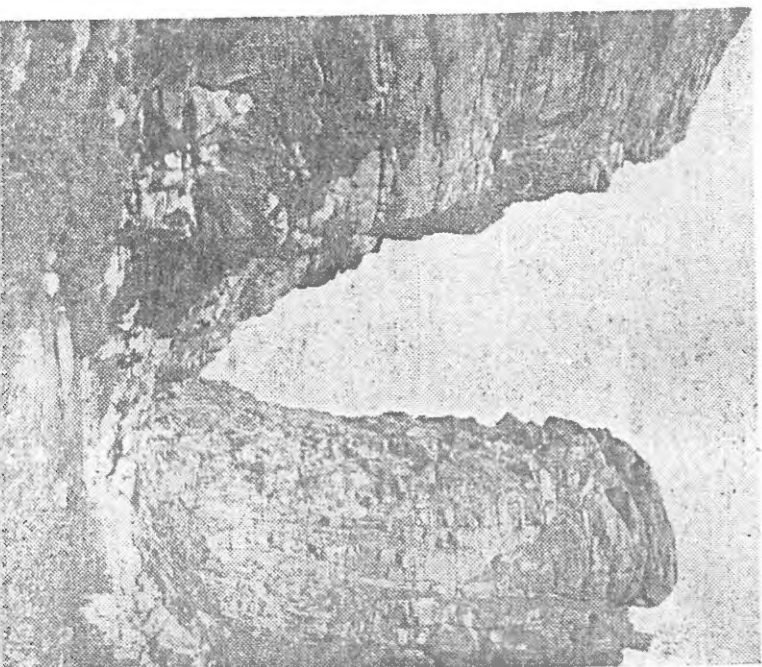


**MARTIN'S COVE**—In this hollow near South Pass in Wyoming, several hundred members of the Martin Handcart Company sought shelter in October 1856, waiting for aid or death. Fifteen people were buried in one large grave here.

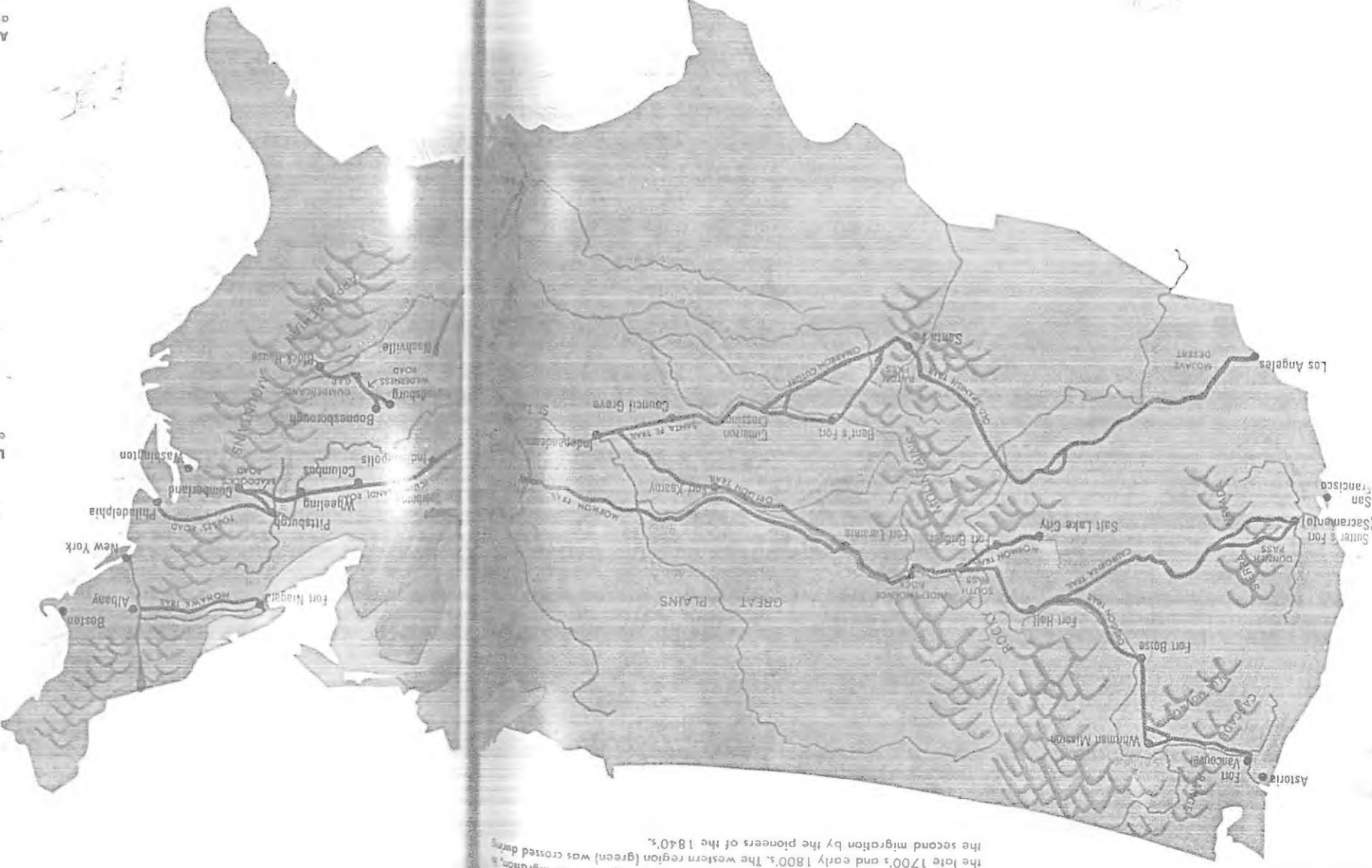
**T**HE 1,300-MILE trek from Winter Quarters, to Salt Lake Valley, began April 5, 1847, led by Brigham Young. It ended some three months later on July 24, when the wagon train paused at the mouth of Emigration Canyon. The inspired leader looked out over the valley from the carriage in which he had been riding and declared, "This is the right place. Drive on."

The same route may now be covered in a matter of days via automobiles or train, or in a matter of minutes by jet plane.

All of the sufferings, the hardships, even the joys of that journey of the first Pioneers and those who followed them are beyond the ken of the modern traveler. But some idea of the experiences they had may be gained by following their route on the mod-



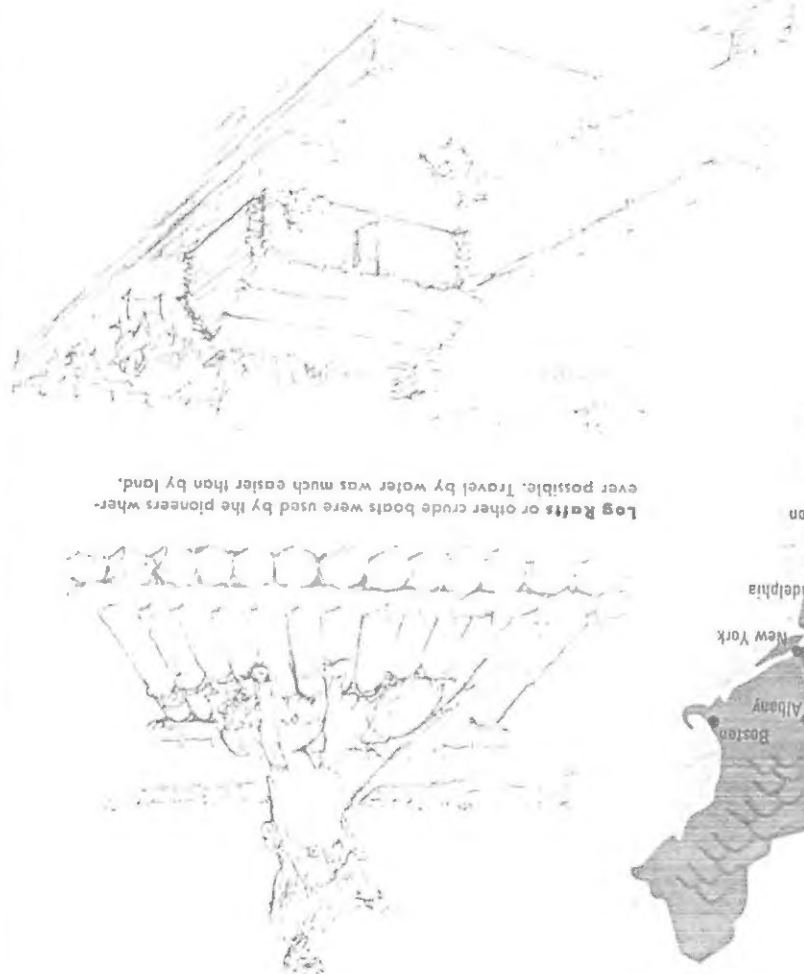
illustrate the eastern region (yellow) was crossed during the first migration, the late 1700's and early 1800's. The western region (green) was crossed during the second migration by the pioneers of the 1840's.



WORLD BOOK map by George Stuebs

**A Large Flatboat** could carry two or three families down a river, along with their livestock and everything else they owned.

**Log Rafts** or other crude boats were used by the pioneers whenever possible. Travel by water was much easier than by land.





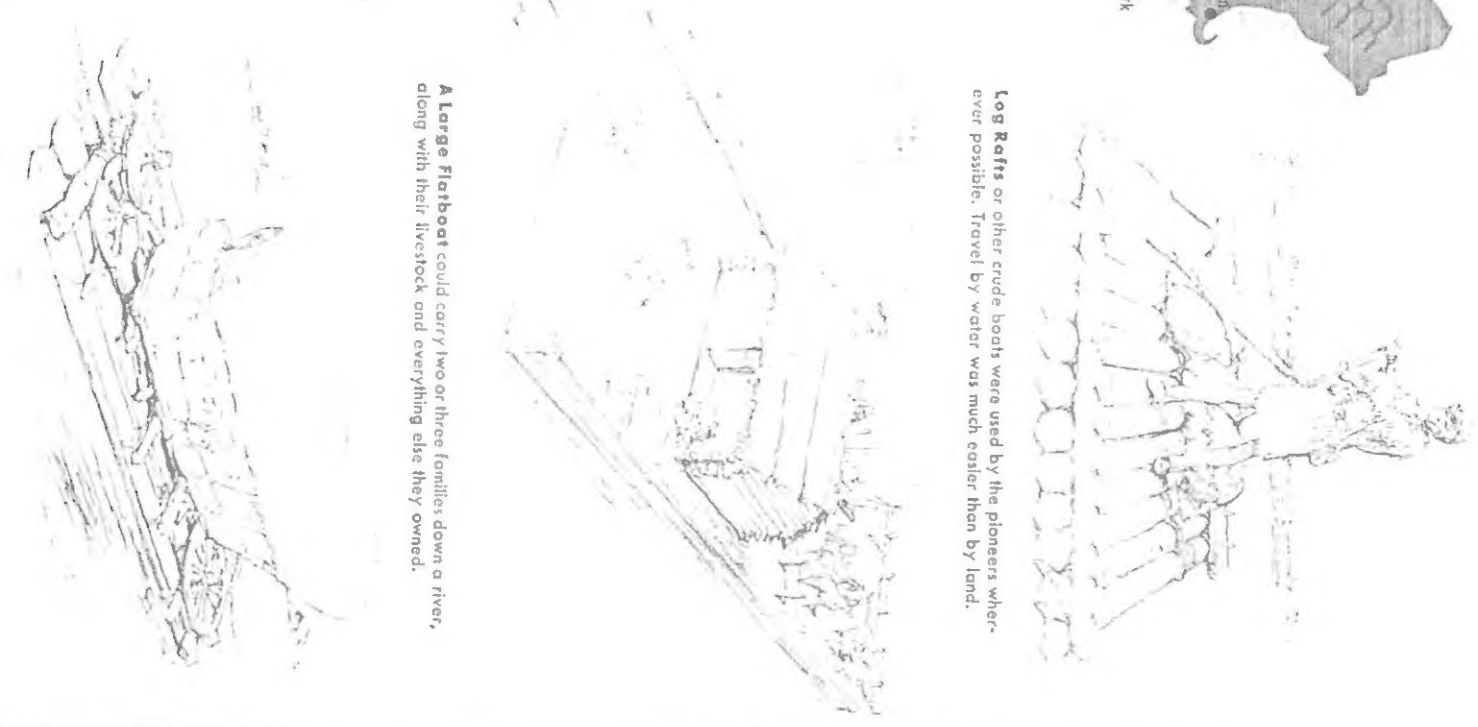
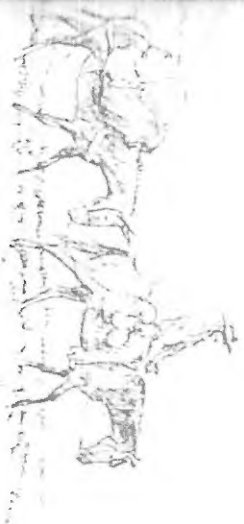
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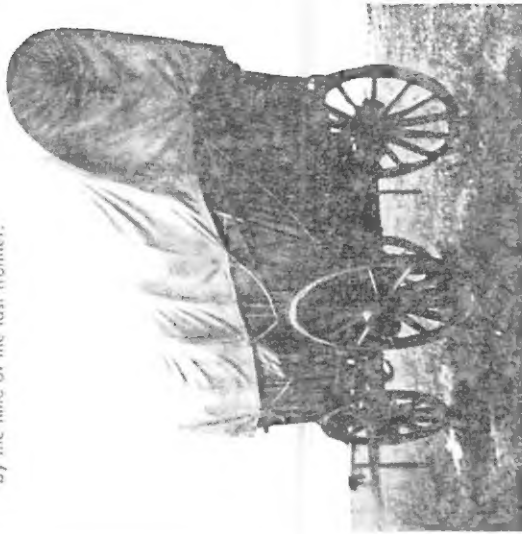
WORLD BOOK map by George Snyedeker

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**Early Settlers in the Far West**  
crossed the plains to Oregon or California. Their high Conestoga wagons had already become museum pieces by the time of the last frontier.



Tom Bollyman, courtesy *History*, © 1995 Curtis Publishing Co.